(c) whether the Chiefs of Army and Air Force expressed their unhappiness on the issue of handing the hijacking crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) There was a constant sharing of information and exchange of inputs with Director General of Military Intelligence, AOC, Western Command and Air Hqrs, during the incident of hijacking of IC-814.

Criteria for upgradation of Airports

†2604. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 177 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2000 and state :

(a) what criteria have been set for selecting the places for upgradation of airports; and

(b) the names of the international airports which are operating in the country at present ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The criteria for setting up of international airports are as under:

(i) There should be a demand for international operations;

(ii) There should be facilities for customs, immigration, health, plant quarantine, etc.

(iii) The runway length should be minimum 9000 feet of adequate strength for operation of Medium Capacity Low Range (MCLR) aircraft which constitute majority of the aircraft now for international operations; and

(iv) Adequate communication, navigation and surveillance and landing aids for all weather operations.

(b) Till recently, there were five international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Thiruvananthapuram. It has now been decided to declare existing domestic airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Goa, Amritsar, Guwahati and the new Cochin Airport at Nedumbassery also as international airports.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.